

## COMMENDING Rx NEW HAMPSHIRE

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 2004*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend six months of operation of Rx New Hampshire, a website and program designed to bring affordable prescription drug costs to New Hampshire residents. Launched on April 5, 2004, it has already hosted more than 14,000 visits and is responsible for hundreds of anecdotal cases of Granite Staters using the information to save on their needed medications.

New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson is a leader on this issue and has demonstrated that affordable prescription drugs and safety are not mutually exclusive goals. In order to provide citizens with the confidence to use any of the screened pharmacies located in Canada listed on the State website at <http://www.state.nh.us/governor/prescription/prescription.html>, Governor Benson directed the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to identify only those Canadian pharmacies that meet strict domestic and international accreditation standards. Onsite inspections of facilities in Canada have also been performed by independent New Hampshire pharmacists for each listed provider. Samples have been bought and shipped through the normal process and were analyzed for active ingredients at the NH State Police Forensic Laboratory and examined by the NH Board of Pharmacy. No significant difference between these drugs and a duplicate prescription list that was filled from local U.S. chain pharmacies was found.

For more information, I have linked the prescription drug section of my Congressional Web site at [www.house.gov/bass](http://www.house.gov/bass) to the Rx New Hampshire page and urge my House colleagues and all Americans to visit and examine the good work and solutions offered in the Granite State.

I again call on Congress and the Federal Drug Administration to adopt importation policies that do not stand in the way of such innovative and proven solutions to these growing costs. I am certain that Governor Benson and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services would be willing to lend their expertise to any other State or Federal agency wise enough to follow their lead.

## HONORING MRS. GRECIA GRECIA ALAJAR

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 2004*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Grecia Grecia Alajar, a retired teacher and Nevada's recipient of the Outstanding Older Worker Award. The work for and dedication to the community of retired individuals, like Mrs. Alajar, are inspiring to all of us as we seek to improve our districts and our States.

Mrs. Alajar, after a lifetime of teaching in the Philippines, Los Angeles, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada, returned to the workforce, this time as a member of health care delivery sys-

tem. She is an integral part of the operations of the First Choice Home Health Care Agency.

Mrs. Alajar was born and raised in the Philippines, where she taught high school before moving to the United States in 1970. After overcoming the language barrier, she began teaching mentally challenged children. Her good works continued as she impacted the lives of many children facing challenges. I applaud Mrs. Alajar and her dedication to our community as an excellent role model for us all.

## HONORING THE FORMER FIRST LADY OF NORTH SAINT PAUL, DOLORES SANDBERG

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 2004*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine, the former First Lady of North Saint Paul, Dolores Sandberg.

Dolores Sandberg passed away last month, surrounded by her family including her loving husband William, her daughter Karen and two grandchildren, Caroline and William.

Dolores was a woman of great character and strength. She always had a tremendous sense of humor and wit and was always positive even as she dealt with her illness.

She was also a woman who supported and loved North St. Paul and its people along with her husband Mayor Sandberg, our beloved mayor. I know that I am not the only one who will miss her kind words, warm smile and soft voice.

We will miss Dolores dearly. She led a life of dignity and warmth, and will be remembered fondly in the hearts of many.

## HONORING THE ANI DANCE ENSEMBLE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 2004*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, Mr. WAXMAN and I rise today to honor "the Ani Dance Ensemble," part of the Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, Hamazkayin, as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. Hamazkayin was founded by a group of community leaders on May 28, 1928, in Cairo, Egypt with the objective of providing a sound education to the new generation and preserving the ethnic identity and cultural heritage of the Armenian people forced to live outside their homeland after the 1915 Armenian genocide.

Subsequently, Hamazkayin chapters sprouted throughout the Middle East, Europe, the United States, Canada, South America and Armenia to instill, perpetuate and preserve the centuries of Armenian culture. Hamazkayin has been successful in establishing secondary and higher educational institutions which have prepared scholars, literary figures, and community leaders throughout Armenia and the Diaspora. The establishment of "the Ani Dance Ensemble" achieves the objectives of Hamazkayin through their unique performances of traditional Armenian folk dances.

"The Ani Dance Ensemble" was established in 1974 in Los Angeles, California under the leadership of artistic directors/choreographers Ms. Suzy Barseghian-Tarpinian and Mr. Yeghia Hasholian. The ensemble has had more than 80 dances in its repertoire, and presently consists of 40 dancers. Since its inception it has performed and captivated audiences throughout California as well as cities across the nation including Washington DC, Chicago, Illinois; Falls Church, Virginia; and Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition, the group has performed in Armenia and Karabagh in 1999, 2001, and 2004. The ensemble has also represented Armenian Culture through Armenian folk dances at the American Ethnic Day in Washington, DC in 1987. They are frequently invited by American, ethnic and Armenian organizations to perform at functions. As one of the oldest and most accomplished Armenian Dance Ensembles in the United States, it is recognized as one of the best ethnic dance groups in America.

It is our distinct honor to recognize the cultural contributions of "the Ani Dance Ensemble." I ask all members to join me in congratulating the "the Ani Dance Ensemble's" 30 years of performing traditional Armenian folk dances.

## SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES OF CARIBBEAN DEVASTATED BY HURRICANES CHARLEY, FRANCES, IVAN, AND JEANNE

SPEECH OF

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 496, a bill I cosponsored, which expresses the sense of Congress on the need for humanitarian assistance to hurricane-ravaged Caribbean countries. As you know, Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne struck the Caribbean, leading to widespread destruction and devastation.

This is a matter of great concern to me because many of my constituents in Dade and Broward Counties are from, have ancestors from, or have relatives presently living on the islands of the Caribbean. I also represent the largest Haitian constituency in the country. Of all the islands in the Caribbean, Haiti was particularly hard hit. As of today, the toll was more than 2,900 dead or missing and presumed dead. An estimated 300,000 Haitians are left homeless. The extent of this destruction has severely strained the already meager resources of the government, law enforcement authorities, and the United Nations forces in Haiti.

Haiti especially has suffered. Just yesterday, the Washington Post reported the heartwrenching story of Monise Alsenor, a Haitian mother, two of whose children are missing after water tore through her house and swept her family away. She could not reach her children as they yelled "save me!" in Creole. She and her husband spent the night holding onto a tree while the water tugged at them and the tree thorns ripped off